

# NEBRASKA AGRI-FACTS

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**NASS**  
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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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### NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE

This report highlights the importance of agriculture to Nebraska. In 1999, the State's 55,000 farms and ranches utilized 46.4 million acres or about 95 percent of the State's total land area. Agriculture is Nebraska's primary source of wealth and its dominant industry. It is estimated that one-half of Nebraska workers depend on agriculture and the many related industries involved in all phases of the food and fiber chain from production to marketing for their employment.

The Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service compiled this report as a service to the public, foreign interests looking to buy Nebraska products, and the many farmers, ranchers and agricultural service firms who voluntarily provide survey data to make reliable agricultural estimates possible. Crop and livestock reports date back to the beginning of this country. The National agency issued the first official monthly crop report in 1863. These statistics reports continue to inform both buyers and sellers, helping to keep agricultural markets updated, stable and efficient -- and help to maintain a "level playing field" for all.

We hope this report will be useful and answer many questions about Nebraska agriculture. If more information is needed, please contact us at the address shown above.

#### NEBRASKA FARMS AND RANCHES AND LAND

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farms
	Number	1,000 Ac.	Acres
1960 . . . . .	93,000	48,200	518
1970 . . . . .	73,000	48,100	659
1980 . . . . .	65,000	47,700	734
1985 . . . . .	60,000	47,200	787
1990 . . . . .	57,000	47,100	826
1991 . . . . .	56,000	47,100	841
1992 . . . . .	56,000	47,100	841
1993 . . . . .	56,000	46,500	830
1994 . . . . .	56,000	46,500	830
1995 . . . . .	56,000	46,400	829
1996 . . . . .	56,000	46,400	829
1997 . . . . .	55,000	46,400	844
1998 . . . . .	55,000	46,400	844
1999 . . . . .	55,000	46,400	844

#### AGRO CLIMATIC RESOURCES

Nebraska is located in the mid-section of the United States (latitude 40°N-43°N; longitude 96°W-104°W). Hot summers and cold winters, variability in rainfall distribution, fluctuating length of growing season, and frequent winds typify Nebraska's climate and each has affected agricultural production decisions and resource distribution over the years. Average "precipitation" during the last decade ranged from 35 inches in the southeast to nearly 18 inches in the west. About 75 percent of the precipitation falls as rain during April - September, the crop growing season. Average growing season ranges from 170 days in the southeast to 120 days in the extreme northwest. The southeast is about 1,000 feet above sea level, while the Panhandle has elevations of 4,000 - 5,400 feet. "Irrigation," currently at 8.1 million acres, provides a buffer against drought, a serious recurrent problem for the Great Plains. A careful selection of adaptable crops, improved varieties, use of strip and contour cropping, stubble mulching, deferred grazing and other proven practices enable Nebraska farmers to cope with climatic uncertainty and supply domestic and international markets with top quality products.

#### WATER RESOURCES

Nebraska is a water-rich State. Underneath 59 percent of its 49-million-acre land surface, in porous rock beds called aquifers, is stored nearly 2 billion acre-feet of good quality groundwater, most of which is easily accessible. Add to that an average of 90 million acre-feet of annual precipitation and an annual surface-water inflow of roughly 2 million acre-feet to obtain a measure of available water. In terms of surface water, approximately 8 million acre-feet flows on to other States, making Nebraska a donor of approximately 6 million acre-feet more than flows into its borders. Groundwater irrigation began in the 1920's. At the beginning of 1975, nearly 46,000 registered irrigation wells and about 5,000 surface water rights supplied 4 million acres. Currently, 80,182 registered wells and some 5,000 surface water rights supply water to about 8.1 million acres of crop and pastureland.

#### SOIL RESOURCES

Nebraska soils are a product of interaction of climate and biological organisms on parent materials as modified by local topography, drainage, and exposure to weathering. Two types of geologic deposits are parent materials for the vast majority of soils in the State. Wind-blown sand is the parent material in the Sandhills grazing region that occupies much of the north-central part of the State. Elsewhere, most soils have formed in wind-blown silt and clay or loess. Topography and subsequent soil drainage have greatly influenced development of soil properties in local areas.



#### LAND USES

Nebraska's 46.4 million acres in farms and ranches is divided between cropland and other land used primarily for pastures and rangeland to support the State's livestock industry. In 1999, the area planted to crops and used for hay totaled 19.4 million acres. Active participation in government acreage reduction programs has reduced planted acreages in some years. Comparable area planted estimates for 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 were 19.1, 18.3, 18.8, 19.1, and 19.0 million acres, respectively.

Corn, soybeans, winter wheat and sorghum are the State's leading crops, usually utilizing about 15.0 million acres of cropland. Corn and winter wheat are grown essentially Statewide, while most soybeans are produced in the eastern one-half of Nebraska. Primary sorghum producing counties lie in the southeastern one-third of the State. The specialty crops of dry edible beans and sugar beets are produced in western irrigated fields. Sandhill pastures of north central Nebraska produce much of the State's wild hay production and maintain many cow/calf operations.

## CROPS

Year	Acres 1/ Planted	Acres Harv.	Yield per Harv. Acre	Production
<b>CORN FOR GRAIN</b>				
	000 Acres		Bu.	000 Bu.
1980 ....	7,800	7,100	85.0	603,500
1985 ....	7,800	7,450	128.0	953,600
1990 ....	7,700	7,300	128.0	934,400
1995 ....	8,000	7,700	111.0	854,700
1996 ....	8,500	8,250	143.0	1,179,750
1997 ....	8,900	8,600	132.0	1,135,200
1998 ....	8,800	8,550	*145.0	*1,239,750
1999 ....	8,600	8,300	139.0	1,153,700
<b>SOYBEANS</b>				
	000 Acres		Bu.	000 Bu.
1980 ....	1,830	1,770	30.0	53,100
1985 ....	2,400	2,360	36.0	84,960
1990 ....	2,400	2,360	34.5	81,420
1995 ....	3,100	3,060	33.0	100,980
1996 ....	3,050	3,010	45.0	135,450
1997 ....	3,600	3,550	40.5	143,775
1998 ....	3,800	3,750	44.0	165,000
1999 ....	*4,300	*4,250	42.5	*180,625
<b>ALL WHEAT</b>				
	000 Acres		Bu.	000 Bu.
1980 ....	3,000	2,850	38.0	108,300
1985 ....	2,600	2,300	39.0	89,700
1990 ....	2,450	2,250	38.0	85,500
1995 ....	2,150	2,100	41.0	86,100
1996 ....	2,300	2,100	35.0	73,500
1997 ....	2,000	1,900	37.0	70,300
1998 ....	1,900	1,800	46.0	82,800
1999 ....	2,000	1,800	*48.0	86,400
<b>SORGHUM FOR GRAIN</b>				
	000 Acres		Bu.	000 Bu.
1980 ....	2,200	2,030	60.0	121,800
1985 ....	2,100	1,930	80.0	154,400
1990 ....	1,600	1,410	77.0	108,570
1995 ....	1,250	980	58.0	56,840
1996 ....	1,250	1,030	95.0	97,850
1997 ....	900	750	81.0	60,750
1998 ....	700	600	94.0	56,400
1999 ....	550	470	91.0	42,770
<b>ALL HAY</b>				
	000 Acres		Tons	000 Tons
1980 ....	---	3,700	1.91	7,083
1985 ....	---	3,300	2.05	6,755
1990 ....	---	3,650	1.97	7,205
1995 ....	---	3,150	2.29	7,200
1996 ....	---	3,150	2.37	7,455
1997 ....	---	3,200	2.12	6,790
1998 ....	---	3,200	*2.40	7,680
1999 ....	---	3,200	2.38	7,610
<b>ALFALFA HAY</b>				
	000 Acres		Tons	000 Tons
1980 ....	---	1,650	3.05	5,033
1985 ....	---	1,400	3.40	4,760
1990 ....	---	1,450	3.30	4,785
1995 ....	---	1,350	3.60	4,860
1996 ....	---	1,400	3.70	5,180
1997 ....	---	1,300	3.25	4,225
1998 ....	---	1,400	*3.75	5,250
1999 ....	---	1,400	3.70	5,180
<b>WILD HAY</b>				
	000 Acres		Tons	000 Tons
1980 ....	---	1,750	.90	1,575
1985 ....	---	1,550	.88	1,365
1990 ....	---	1,600	.92	1,472
1995 ....	---	1,500	1.19	1,785
1996 ....	---	1,475	1.16	1,710
1997 ....	---	1,550	1.18	1,830
1998 ....	---	1,550	1.15	1,725
1999 ....	---	n/a	n/a	n/a

1/ Planted all purposes. \* Record high. n/a = Not available.

Year	Acres 1/ Planted	Acres Harv.	Yield per Harv. Acre	Production
<b>IRRIGATED GORN FOR GRAIN</b>				
	000 Acres		Bu.	000 Bu.
1980 ....	---	4,950	101.0	499,950
1985 ....	---	5,050	141.5	714,800
1990 ....	---	5,050	145.5	734,775
1995 ....	---	5,125	130.1	666,725
1996 ....	---	*5,575	156.4	*872,125
1997 ....	---	5,400	151.6	818,400
1998 ....	---	5,250	*161.3	847,050
1999 ....	---	4,800	159.4	765,200
<b>DRY EDIBLE BEANS</b>				
	000 Acres		Lbs.	000 Cwt.
1980 ....	160	150	1,820	2,730
1985 ....	165	151	1,850	2,794
1990 ....	*260	*254	1,970	*5,004
1995 ....	225	205	1,750	3,588
1996 ....	205	195	1,900	3,705
1997 ....	190	180	2,060	3,708
1998 ....	195	188	1,950	3,666
1999 ....	210	187	2,000	3,740
<b>SUGAR BEETS</b>				
	000 Acres		Tons	000 Tons
1980 ....	87.0	85.0	20.9	1,777
1985 ....	59.1	53.2	23.1	1,229
1990 ....	75.1	71.0	21.0	1,491
1995 ....	75.9	72.3	16.4	1,186
1996 ....	55.8	51.2	17.8	913
1997 ....	67.3	60.3	16.8	1,013
1998 ....	53.8	47.4	19.7	934
1999 ....	72.7	66.2	19.0	1,258
<b>OATS</b>				
	000 Acres		Bu.	000 Bu.
1980 ....	525	380	41.0	15,580
1985 ....	550	420	61.0	25,620
1990 ....	450	280	48.0	13,440
1995 ....	155	90	50.0	4,500
1996 ....	165	105	*71.0	7,455
1997 ....	160	90	65.0	5,850
1998 ....	170	95	56.0	5,320
1999 ....	135	75	62.0	4,650
<b>CROPS: RECORD HIGHS THROUGH 1999</b>				
Crops	Year	Record High		
Corn	Harvested	1932	10,005,000	acres
for	Yield	1998	145.0	bu.
Grain	Production	1998	1,239,750,000	bu.
Soybeans	Harvested	1999	4,250,000	acres
	Yield	1994	47.0	bu.
	Production	1999	180,625,000	bu.
All Wheat	Harvested	1938	4,691,000	acres
	Yield	1999	48.0	bu.
	Production	1958	113,488,000	bu.
Sorghum	Harvested	1965	2,271,000	acres
for	Yield	1994	98.0	bu.
Grain	Production	1981	164,800,000	bu.
All Hay	Harvested	1954	5,595,000	acres
	Yield	1998	2.40	tons
	Production	1982	7,855,000	tons
<b>NEBRASKA'S RANK AMONG STATES IN 1999</b>				
1st	Great northern beans production - 2,111,000 cwt.			
2nd	Alfalfa meal production - 141,100 tons			
3rd	Corn grain production - 1.15 billion bushels			
3rd	Sorghum grain production - 42.8 million bushels			
3rd	Pinto beans production - 1,096,000 cwt.			
4th	On-farm grain storage capacity - 1.0 billion bushels			
4th	Commercial grain storage capacity - 661 million bushels			
5th	All hay production - 7.6 million tons			
5th	Alfalfa hay production - 5.2 million tons			
5th	Soybean production - 180.6 million bushels			
6th	Winter wheat production - 86.4 million bushels			
7th	Crops cash receipts - \$3.72 billion (in 1998)			
8th	Sugar beet production - 1.3 million tons			

## CROPS

Year	Hectares Planted 1/	Hectares Harv.	Yield per Harv. Hectare	Production
<b>CORN FOR GRAIN</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	3,157	2,873	5.34	15,330
1985 ....	3,157	3,015	8.03	24,222
1990 ....	3,116	2,954	8.03	23,735
1995 ....	3,238	3,116	6.97	21,710
1996 ....	3,440	3,339	8.98	29,967
1997 ....	3,602	3,480	8.29	28,835
1998 ....	3,561	3,460	*9.10	*31,491
1999 ....	3,480	3,359	8.72	29,305
<b>SOYBEANS</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	741	716	2.02	1,445
1985 ....	971	955	2.42	2,312
1990 ....	971	955	2.32	2,216
1995 ....	1,255	1,238	2.22	2,748
1996 ....	1,234	1,218	3.03	3,686
1997 ....	1,457	1,437	2.72	3,913
1998 ....	1,538	1,518	2.96	4,491
1999 ....	*1,740	*1,720	2.86	*4,916
<b>ALL WHEAT</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	1,214	1,153	2.56	2,947
1985 ....	1,052	931	2.62	2,441
1990 ....	992	911	2.56	2,327
1995 ....	870	850	2.76	2,343
1996 ....	931	850	2.35	2,000
1997 ....	809	769	2.49	1,913
1998 ....	769	728	3.09	2,253
1999 ....	809	728	*3.23	2,351
<b>SORGHUM FOR GRAIN</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	890	822	3.77	3,094
1985 ....	850	781	5.02	3,922
1990 ....	648	571	4.83	2,758
1995 ....	506	397	3.64	1,444
1996 ....	506	417	5.96	2,485
1997 ....	364	304	5.08	1,543
1998 ....	283	243	5.90	1,433
1999 ....	223	190	5.71	1,086
<b>ALL HAY</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	---	1,497	4.29	6,426
1985 ....	---	1,335	4.59	6,128
1990 ....	---	1,477	4.42	6,536
1995 ....	---	1,275	5.12	6,532
1996 ....	---	1,275	5.31	6,763
1997 ....	---	1,295	4.76	6,160
1998 ....	---	1,295	*5.38	6,967
1999 ....	---	1,295	5.33	6,904
<b>ALFALFA HAY</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	---	668	6.84	4,566
1985 ....	---	567	7.62	4,318
1990 ....	---	587	7.40	4,341
1995 ....	---	546	8.07	4,409
1996 ....	---	567	8.29	4,699
1997 ....	---	526	7.29	3,833
1998 ....	---	567	*8.41	4,763
1999 ....	---	567	8.29	4,699
<b>WILD HAY</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	---	708	2.02	1,429
1985 ....	---	627	1.97	1,238
1990 ....	---	648	2.06	1,335
1995 ....	---	607	2.67	1,619
1996 ....	---	597	2.60	1,551
1997 ....	---	627	2.65	1,660
1998 ....	---	607	2.58	1,565
1999 ....	---	n/a	n/a	n/a

1/ Planted all purposes. \* Record high. n/a = Not available.

Year	Hectares Planted 1/	Hectares Harv.	Yield per Harv. Hectares	Production
<b>IRRIGATED GORN FOR GRAIN</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	---	2,003	6.34	12,699
1985 ....	---	2,044	8.88	18,157
1990 ....	---	2,044	9.13	18,664
1995 ....	---	2,074	8.17	16,935
1996 ....	---	*2,256	9.82	*22,153
1997 ....	---	2,185	9.51	20,788
1998 ....	---	2,125	*10.13	21,516
1999 ....	---	1,943	10.01	19,437
<b>DRY EDIBLE BEANS</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	65	61	2.04	124
1985 ....	67	61	2.08	127
1990 ....	*105	*103	2.21	*227
1995 ....	91	83	1.96	163
1996 ....	83	79	2.13	168
1997 ....	77	73	2.31	168
1998 ....	79	76	2.19	166
1999 ....	85	76	2.24	170
<b>SUGAR BEETS</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	35.2	34.4	46.86	1,612
1985 ....	23.9	21.5	51.79	1,115
1990 ....	30.4	28.7	47.07	1,353
1995 ....	30.7	29.3	36.77	1,076
1996 ....	22.6	20.7	39.97	828
1997 ....	27.2	24.4	37.66	919
1998 ....	21.8	19.2	44.17	847
1999 ....	29.4	26.8	42.60	1,141
<b>OATS</b>				
	000 Hectares		MT	000 MT
1980 ....	212	154	1.47	266
1985 ....	223	170	2.19	372
1990 ....	182	113	1.72	195
1995 ....	63	36	1.79	65
1996 ....	67	42	*2.55	108
1997 ....	65	36	2.33	85
1998 ....	69	38	2.01	77
1999 ....	55	30	2.22	67

## CROPS: RECORD HIGHS THROUGH 1999

	Crops	Year	Record High
Corn	Harvested	1932	4,049,000 hectares
	Yield	1998	9.10 metric tons
	Production	1998	31,491,000 metric tons
Soybeans	Harvested	1999	1,720,000 hectares
	Yield	1994	3.16 metric tons
	Production	1999	4,916,000 metric tons
All Wheat	Harvested	1938	1,898,000 hectares
	Yield	1999	3.23 metric tons
	Production	1958	3,087,000 metric tons
Sorghum	Harvested	1965	919,000 hectares
	Yield	1994	6.15 metric tons
	Production	1981	4,186,000 metric tons
All Hay	Harvested	1954	2,264,000 hectares
	Yield	1998	5.38 metric tons
	Production	1982	7,126,000 metric tons

## NEBRASKA'S RANK AMONG STATES IN 1999

1st	Great northern beans production - 95,839 metric tons
2nd	Alfalfa meal production - 128,004 metric tons
3rd	Corn grain production - 29,305,000 metric tons
3rd	Sorghum grain production - 1,086,000 metric tons
3rd	Pinto beans production - 49,758 metric tons
4th	On-farm grain storage capacity - 26.3 million metric tons
4th	Commercial grain storage capacity - 17.4 million metric tons
5th	All hay production - 6,904,000 metric tons
5th	Alfalfa hay production - 4,699,000 metric tons
6th	Winter wheat production - 2,351,000 metric tons
6th	Crops cash receipts - \$3.72 billion (in 1998)
7th	Soybean production - 4,916,000 metric tons
10th	Sugar beet production - 1,141,000 metric tons

**NEBRASKA -- ALL LAND  
AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE  
BY STATISTICAL DISTRICT, 1989-1999**

District	Selected Years						
	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1998	1999
Northwest	210	226	239	250	269	288	275
North	171	215	226	251	275	295	285
Northeast	689	747	790	860	962	1,053	1,052
Central	495	639	693	744	833	897	859
East	1,009	1,115	1,217	1,378	1,600	1,754	1,718
Southwest	300	341	396	384	417	450	439
South	673	787	885	944	1,066	1,140	1,099
Southeast	711	756	845	925	1,057	1,162	1,111
STATE	432	492	531	582	654	710	690

\* SOURCE: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments 1998-99 Ag Research Division, UNL, June 1999.

\* Includes irrigated and non-irrigated cropland, grazing and hayland.

**PRICES RECEIVED BY NEBRASKA FARMERS 1/**

Commodity	1970	1980	1990	1997	1998	1999
Corn, Bu.	1.25	3.08	2.28	2.32	1.88	1.85
Soybeans, Bu.	2.78	7.25	5.59	6.28	4.83	4.60
Sorghum, Bu.	1.08	2.85	2.05	2.15	1.76	1.65
All Wheat, Bu.	1.22	3.72	2.53	3.20	2.54	2.30
Oats, Bu.	.65	1.85	1.19	1.79	1.19	1.00
All Hay, Ton	21.00	55.00	58.00	76.00	48.50	37.00
Sugar Beets, Ton	14.80	47.00	40.10	35.60	35.20	NA
Dry Beans, Cwt.	8.00	26.90	16.90	18.80	18.00	17.10
Steers & Heifers, Cwt.	29.10	66.70	80.00	67.60	62.70	66.30
Cows, Cwt.	20.50	45.80	52.00	36.60	34.20	34.60
Calves, Cwt.	35.30	78.70	100.00	86.00	83.80	89.50
Hogs, Cwt.	22.30	38.10	54.80	55.40	37.10	32.30
Sheep, Cwt.	7.30	24.50	21.90	35.10	31.10	31.50
Lambs, Cwt.	27.50	64.30	54.00	90.90	74.80	72.50
Milk Cows, Cwt.	298	1,130	1,130	1,170	1,140	1,290

1/ Crops prices for 1970, and 1980 are season average prices; beginning 1985 prices are marketing year average prices received. NA = Not Available. 1999 preliminary.

**GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY**

Commercial off-farm grain storage capacity of the 531 licensed storage facilities totaled 660.8 million bushels on December 1, 1999. On-farm capacity was estimated at 1.03 billion bushels on December 1, 1999, compared with 1.05 billion bushels on December 1, 1998.

**OFF-FARM GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY  
NEBRASKA & UNITED STATES, 1998 & 1999**

DISTRICT	STORAGE CAPACITY 1/		NET CHANGE	1999 1998
	12/1/98	12/1/99		
	1,000 bushels			%
Northwest . . . .	30,396	30,799	403	+ 1
North . . . . .	13,567	16,244	2,677	+ 20
Northeast . . . .	75,350	74,544	806	- 1
Central . . . . .	47,444	50,512	3,068	+ 6
East . . . . .	216,342	225,164	8,822	+ 4
Southwest . . . .	60,529	63,105	2,576	+ 4
South . . . . .	92,517	100,785	8,268	+ 9
Southeast . . . .	92,465	99,687	7,222	+ 8
State . . . . .	628,610	660,840	32,230	+ 5
United States	8,003,190	8,087,250	84,060	+ 1

1/ Licensed commercial storage, including temporary facilities licensed for use this year

**NEBRASKA TOTAL FARM INCOME**

Year	Gross Income 1/	Farm Production Expenses	Net Farm Income	Net Farm Income Per Farm
	Million Dollars		Dollars	
1990 . . . . .	10,406.1	7,899.8	2,506.3	43,970
1991 . . . . .	9,868.8	7,575.6	2,293.2	40,950
1992 . . . . .	9,933.5	7,421.0	2,512.5	44,866
1993 . . . . .	9,807.4	7,822.6	1,984.8	35,443
1994 . . . . .	9,877.4	7,704.1	2,173.3	38,809
1995 . . . . .	9,575.8	7,964.3	1,611.5	28,777
1996 . . . . .	11,606.7	8,192.5	3,414.2	60,968
1997 . . . . .	10,976.2	8,965.1	2,011.1	36,565
1998 . . . . .	10,574.3	8,815.4	1,758.9	31,980

1/ See table below for detailed breakdown, including inventory adjustment.

**NEBRASKA GROSS FARM INCOME**

Year	Cash Receipts	Govern- ment Payments	Non- Cash Income	Farm- Related Income	Value of Inventory Adjustment
	Million Dollars				
1990 . . . .	8,714.8	624.6	159.0	371.6	536.1
1991 . . . .	8,998.9	490.7	154.4	385.3	-160.5
1992 . . . .	8,685.3	478.7	156.5	306.4	306.6
1993 . . . .	8,871.5	806.3	171.9	350.0	-392.3
1994 . . . .	8,500.7	348.2	190.2	318.6	519.7
1995 . . . .	8,983.0	507.3	203.6	407.8	-525.9
1996 . . . .	9,241.4	388.7	226.0	423.8	1,326.8
1997 . . . .	9,803.2	454.5	224.8	486.7	7.0
1998 . . . .	8,848.0	797.4	238.9	554.8	135.2

**VALUE OF NEBRASKA FARM EXPORTS**

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	Million Dollars				
Feed Grains & Products . . . . .	770.3	1,091.5	1,294.9	1,108.3	779.3
Soybeans & Products . . . . .	271.4	384.2	367.1	526.6	482.3
Wheat & Products . . . . .	109.6	134.7	199.6	104.3	98.3
Feeds & Fodders . . .	194.7	208.3	222.6	246.3	248.2
Seeds . . . . .	34.5	34.9	35.0	44.3	24.3
Vegetables & Preparations . . . . .	18.1	19.2	28.8	25.2	30.2
Live Animals & Meat . . . . .	677.0	806.1	834.1	804.1	828.0
Hides & Skins . . . .	257.2	315.5	282.6	304.1	241.5
Fats, Oils & Greases . . . . .	93.4	151.3	118.6	99.3	127.3
Dairy Products . . . .	16.7	16.2	12.5	14.2	15.5
Other . . . . .	19.2	19.4	21.1	19.2	19.4
TOTAL . . . . .	2,462.1	3,181.3	3,416.9	3,295.9	2,894.3

**A BIT OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OFFICE HISTORY:**

The Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service is a State-Federal cooperative effort of U.S.D.A.'s National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. A Federal statistics program dates back to 1862 when U.S.D.A. was founded. This Nebraska cooperative office has been in existence since 1918. It is located in Room 298 of the Federal Building in Lincoln at 100 Centennial Mall North. The office has had three different names: State-Federal Division of Agricultural Statistics (1918-1976), Nebraska Crop and Livestock Reporting Service (1976-1986), and the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (1986 to date). While the office name has changed and survey procedures improved upon, the objective of providing the most accurate and reliable agricultural forecasts and estimates possible has remained unchanged throughout the years. "Voluntary" reporting by many thousands of farmers, ranchers and agri-business firms make these estimates possible in a timely manner.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- \* 3 of every 4 farms have livestock or poultry enterprises.
- \* Usually 40% of feed grains produced are fed in State.
- \* Cash receipts from livestock, poultry, and products annually account for about 60% of total cash receipts.
- \* National rank among States (Number and Date):
  - 1st - Commercial red meat production (6.9 billion lbs. - 1999)
  - 2nd - Commercial cattle slaughter (7.4 million - 1999)
  - 2nd - Cattle & calves (6.7 million - 1/00)
  - 2nd - Cattle on feed (2.4 million - 1/00)
  - 3rd - Fed cattle marketed, 1000+ lots (4.8 million - 1999)
  - 3rd - Livestock cash receipts (\$5.1 billion - 1998)
  - 3rd - Beef cows (1.97 million - 1/00)
  - 5th - Calves born (1.9 million - 1999)
  - 6th - Hog slaughter (6.4 million - 1999)
  - 7th - Hogs & pigs (3.0 million - 12/99)
  - 12th - Chickens (13.8 million - 12/99)
  - 14th - Honey production (4.47 million lbs. - 1999)
  - 16th - Sheep & lambs (102,000 - 1/00)

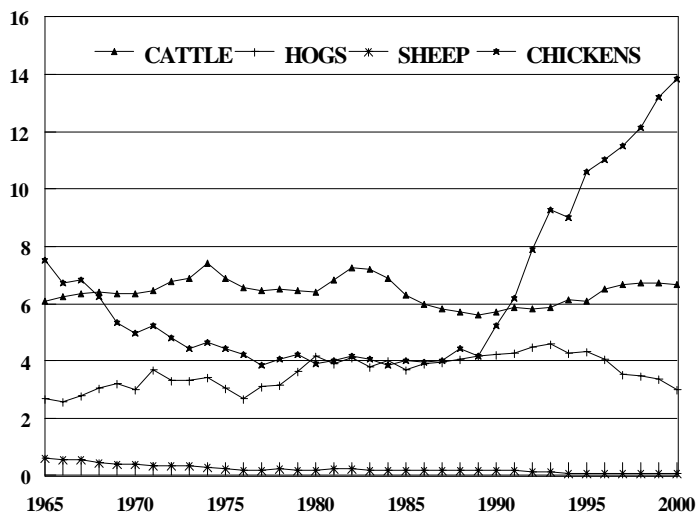
**CATTLE IN NEBRASKA**

- \* Early 2000 all cattle and calf inventory decreased slightly; however, cattle on feed numbers were higher.
- \* Annually, cash receipts total about \$4.5 billion, or about one-half of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- \* Account for about 6.8% of the Nation's cattle herd.
- \* Account for 5.9% of the Nation's beef cow herd.
- \* On January 1, 2000, feedlots held 17.4% of the Nation's cattle on feed and 22.8% of the 7 Major State's total.
- \* Central and western feeding expanding:
  - In 1954, 75% of cattle were placed in eastern one-third of State. Recently, less than 40% of the fed cattle were placed in eastern lots.
- \* Feeding more cattle in fewer feedlots:
  - In 1962, operators of 24,303 lots marketed 1.8 million fed cattle.
  - In 1998, only 685 lots (1,000+ capacity) marketed 4.8 million.
- \* Commercial cattle slaughter totaled about 7.4 million head in 1999 and 20.6% of U.S. total cattle slaughter.

**NUMBER OF OPERATIONS WITH LIVESTOCK**

Year	Cattle	Beef* Cows	Milk* Cows	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle Feedlots*	
						All	1000+
N u m b e r							
1990	31,000	24,000	3,000	12,500	3,200	7,800	480
1991	30,000	23,000	2,700	12,500	2,900	7,400	510
1992	29,000	23,000	2,500	12,500	2,600	6,400	560
1993	29,000	23,000	2,300	11,500	2,200	6,000	600
1994	29,000	23,000	2,000	11,000	1,700	5,700	650
1995	28,000	23,000	1,900	10,000	1,700	5,600	655
1996	28,000	23,000	1,800	8,500	1,700	5,400	670
1997	28,000	23,000	1,500	6,500	1,700	5,100	665
1998	29,000	23,000	1,400	5,900	1,700	5,000	665
1999	28,000	23,000	1,400	5,000	1,700	5,020	685

\* Included in number of cattle operations.

**NEBRASKA - TRENDS IN  
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY INVENTORIES****MILLION HEAD****NEBRASKA LIVESTOCK INVENTORIES**

Year	Cattle Jan. 1	Beef Cows	Milk Cows	Sheep Jan. 1	Hogs & Pigs Dec. 1
- 1,000 head -					
1960 . . . .	5,072	1,499	356	836	2,502
1970 . . . .	6,330	1,915	175	377	3,691
1980 . . . .	6,400	1,950	120	210	3,900
1990 . . . .	5,700	1,760	100	177	4,300
1995 . . . .	6,100	1,895	75	105	4,050
1996 . . . .	6,500	1,930	70	105	3,550
1997 . . . .	6,650	1,941	69	95	3,500
1998 . . . .	6,750	1,940	70	100	3,400
1999 . . . .	6,700	1,978	72	105	3,000
2000 . . . .	6,650	1,974	76	102	NA

NA = Not Available

**NEBRASKA POULTRY STATISTICS**

Year	Eggs Prod.	Chickens Dec. 1 1/	Broiler Prod. 2/	Turkeys Raised 2/	Chickens Sold 2/
Million		T h o u s a n d s			
1960 . . .	1,843	10,425	2,175	1,115	4,798
1970 . . .	858	5,230	1,371	652	2,398
1980 . . .	847	4,000	2,000	811	1,600
1990 . . .	1,202	6,200	2,950	2,090	1,345
1994 . . .	2,027	10,600	2,800	NA	4,500
1995 . . .	2,359	11,005	2,900	NA	3,722
1996 . . .	2,341	11,493	2,300	NA	3,950
1997 . . .	2,469	12,126	1,600	NA	3,820
1998 . . .	2,706	13,219	1,200	NA	5,530
1999 . . .	2,837	13,846	11,500	NA	5,182

1/ Excludes commercial broilers. 2/ Dec. previous year - Nov. current year. NA = Not Available

**LIVESTOCK RECORD HIGHS TO DATE**

COMMODITY	NUMBER	MO./YR.
Cattle & Calves	7.41 million head	1/74
Cattle on Feed	2.38 million head	12/99
Fed Cattle Marketed	5.12 million head	1988
Milk Cows	820 thousand head	1/34
Hogs & Pigs	5.98 million head	1/24
Sheep & Lambs	1.26 million head	1/43
Chickens	19.9 million head	1/44
Turkeys Raised	2.55 million head	1993

## HOGS IN NEBRASKA

- \* Dec. 1, 1999 hog numbers totaled 3.0 million head, down 12% from the 3.4 million Dec. 1, 1998. Numbers have decreased since Dec. 1, 1994, when the inventory totaled 4.35 million head.
- \* Annually, cash receipts in 1998 totaled \$553 million or about 6.3% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- \* Account for about 5% of the Nation's hog herd.
- \* Commercial hog slaughter increased to 6.4 million head in 1999 and 6.3% of U.S. total hog slaughter.

## NEBRASKA--COMMERCIAL CATTLE & HOG SLAUGHTER, SELECTED YEARS, 1970-1999

Year	Coml. Cattle Slaughter		Coml. Hog Slaughter	
	Thousand Head	NE % of U.S.	Thousand head	NE % of U.S.
1970 . . . . .	4,338	12.4	2,566	3.0
1980 . . . . .	5,612	16.6	4,581	4.8
1990 . . . . .	5,882	17.7	5,401	6.3
1993 . . . . .	6,617	19.9	5,623	6.0
1994 . . . . .	6,525	19.1	5,772	6.0
1995 . . . . .	6,769	19.0	5,837	6.1
1996 . . . . .	7,293	19.9	5,718	6.2
1997 . . . . .	7,408	20.4	5,776	6.3
1998 . . . . .	7,300	20.6	6,286	6.2
1999 . . . . .	7,436	20.6	6,356	6.3

## POULTRY IN NEBRASKA

- \* Chicken inventory totaled 13.8 million head on Dec. 1, 1999, up 5% from the 13.2 million head on Dec. 1, 1998. Numbers have increased since Dec. 1, 1993, when the inventory totaled 9 million head.
- \* Annually, cash receipts of nearly \$130 million are just over 1% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- \* Egg production and number of layers increased over 35% in last five years.
- \* Broiler production decreased to 1.2 million head in 1998. This compares with 1.6 million in 1997, 2.3 million in 1996, 2.9 million in 1995, and 2.8 million in 1994.

## NEBRASKA--NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING PLANTS & F.I. CATTLE & HOG SLAUGHTER

Year	Slaughtering Plants			CATTLE		HOGS	
	F.I.	Other	Total	Plants	Head	Plants	Head
	Number			No.	(000)	No.	(000)
1980 . . .	72	159	231	67	5,607	46	4,532
1990 . . .	49	140	189	47	5,834	36	5,348
1993 . . .	49	103	152	45	6,593	31	5,677
1994 . . .	44	96	140	40	6,501	28	5,746
1995 . . .	42	89	131	39	6,742	28	5,813
1996 . . .	43	86	129	39	7,333	28	5,752
1997 . . .	40	84	124	36	7,470	24	5,836
1998 . . .	39	78	117	33	7,254	22	6,235
1999 . . .	34	82	116	29	7,394	20	6,311
2000 . . .	33	81	114	NA	NA	NA	NA

F.I. - Federally Inspected. NA - Not Available

## COMMERCIAL CATTLE SLAUGHTER, TOP FIVE STATES & UNITED STATES, SELECTED YEARS

Rank	1980		1990		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head
1.	Texas	5,793	Kansas	6,259	NEBR.	7,293	NEBR.	7,408	Kansas	7,541	Kansas	8,033
2.	NEBR.	5,612	NEBR.	5,882	Kansas	6,988	Kansas	7,369	NEBR.	7,300	NEBR.	7,436
3.	Iowa	2,999	Texas	5,681	Texas	6,800	Texas	6,615	Texas	6,767	Texas	6,735
4.	Kansas	2,968	Colo.	2,079	Colo.	2,571	Colo.	2,595	Colo.	2,417	Colo.	2,653
5.	Calif.	1,972	Iowa	1,830	Wisc.	1,595	Wisc.	1,643	Wisc.	1,650	Wisc.	1,719
	U.S.	33,807	U.S.	33,242	U.S.	36,583	U.S.	36,317	U.S.	35,465	U.S.	36,150

## NEBRASKA -- CATTLE PLACED IN FEEDLOTS AND PERCENT BY AREAS, SELECTED YEARS

Item or Area	1954*	1964	1974	1984	1993	1994	1995	1996 1/	1997 1/	1998 1/	1999 1/
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Thousand head

Nebraska Annual Cattle Placed . . . . .	1,065	2,441	3,551	4,660	5,120	4,815	5,035	4,600	4,690	4,510	5,110
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### Overview by Areas:

### Percent of Total

NE, E & SE . . . . .	74.8	68.6	64.5	50.1	43.7	42.6	40.7	40.4	39.7	38.3	NA
Rest of State . . . . .	25.2	31.4	35.5	49.9	56.3	57.4	59.3	59.6	60.3	61.7	NA

\* Series started in 1954. 1/ Estimates for lots with 1,000+ head capacity only. NOTE: 1997 & 1998 preliminary. NA - Not Available.

## NEBRASKA--PERCENT OF FED CATTLE MARKETED BY CAPACITY OF FEEDLOTS

Feedlot Capacity	1962*	1964	1974	1984	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
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Percent of Total Marketed

Under 1,000 head . . . .	72.6	61.4	39.6	30.1	16.5	12.8	9.3	5.1	5.9	5.5	5.7
1,000-8,000 head . . . .	19.7	26.7	31.5	29.8	34.2	35.5	37.6	37.5	35.5	35.1	34.2
8,000-32,000 head . . .	7.7	11.9	20.7	28.0	40.3	40.5	42.1	45.5	45.3	44.4	44.9
32,000+ head . . . . .	NA	NA	8.2	12.1	9.0	11.2	11.0	11.9	13.3	15.0	15.2
Total Marketed											
All Lots (000) . . . . .	1,822	2,436	3,355	4,220	4,790	4,715	4,730	4,525	4,710	4,700	5,060

\* Series started in 1962. NA - Not Available.